

of these additional obligations, not expressed it is true in the contract, but which nevertheless has uniformly been performed and included in the contract for printing the journals, it is more than probable that their proposals would have been materially different. In relation to this item too, the testimony of those who were not proposing for the job, before the committee, has been uniform that the work could not be so well executed, and mostly at night too, as it has to be done for a less price than is now paid by the Legislature.

The prices for which all other descriptions of work required for the public service, mentioned in the Baltimore proposals, such as Bills &c., and which constitute a very considerable item in the printing expenses, are exactly the same that are now paid under existing contracts. But the undersigned, in the performance of this part of their duty, have conceived that they ought not to depend entirely upon the proposals which printers may be induced to make with the view of securing to their offices the advantages of the work. They have accordingly proceeded to examine other testimony in relation to this subject, and the result of their examination is entirely satisfactory, that the prices for which the Legislature have paid for the public printing, have been just and reasonable. The concurrent testimony of all who have been inquired of, except those who are offering for the work, has been that it could not be executed in the same manner for less prices than are now paid.

Upon the whole, the undersigned are not prepared to pronounce the prices which have been paid for printing the Laws and Journal by any means unreasonable, even in comparison with the prices for which the work is proposed to be done by those who must be considered as competing for the job, and who having the rates which are paid before them, may fairly be supposed to have an inducement to under bid even reasonable prices.

Having satisfied themselves of the most proper method of securing the faithful execution of the public printing, and having also satisfied themselves that the prices now paid are not exorbitant or unreasonable, the undersigned next proceed to the inquiry whether the public printing had been executed in good faith, according to the contract made by the joint committee of the preceding session. The only objection which the undersigned have been able to discover to the full performance of the strict letter